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We cannot believe that the children are into their third and final term in the Foundation Stage! They have already achieved so much in their first two terms at St. Mary's and we are looking forward to witnessing them achieve even greater things in what promises to be a busy and very exciting term.

Our theme for the first half of this term is 'Bugs, Bees and Butterflies' and after half-term our learning will be based on 'The Seaside'. We will be learning about different mini-beasts like caterpillars, ladybirds and beetles. We will be using some stories to support our learning, for example 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar', 'The Tall, Tall Grass' and 'The Big Book of Bugs' Please continue to talk to your children and encourage them to talk to you about their work in school.

Here is a brief overview of what the children will be doing in the seven areas of learning this term.... remember they always interlink and overlap...

The Allotment - We will be planting sunflowers, runner beans and pumpkin seeds and many more! The children will spend a lot of time outside in our garden, looking after the flowers and vegetables, watering, looking at insects, examining, using their senses - these are all lasting childhood experiences. It looks like a very busy term!!

Physical Development

Gross motor - jumping, running, climbing, throwing and catching..... so many opportunities in our outside areas! Including our range of bikes and scooters that all come out for Bike Friday.

Fine motor - funky fingers to develop muscles for writing as well as many other activities to develop the pincer grip.

All children will need to bring a NAMED sports kit suitable for outdoor PE this term. Your child will need a plain white T-Shirt and navy shorts

Literacy - listening to and learning well-known stories, poems and songs. We will also be learning to read and write our names.

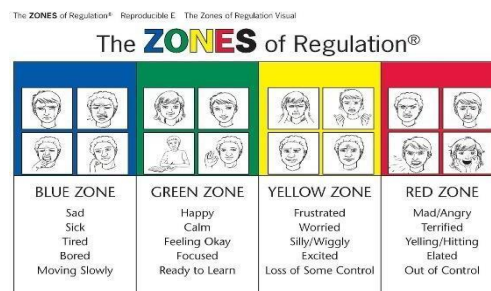
Phonics - we follow our own school scheme and will share more information on this with you soon so that you are able to support your child. Letter formation is incorporated into our phonics lessons. This term we will have lots of opportunities to apply our phonic skills in reading and writing activities.

Reading - Share some of the '100 books at home' with your child. Please read every night before bed as this is a perfect opportunity to help your child develop as a learner and reader! We will be sharing picture books in school and developing a 'love of reading'.

Writing - we will be modelling writing for different purposes across all areas of provision; shopping lists in the home corner, making plans in the construction area, signs around the classroom and recording the children's ideas. The children will be encouraged to join in alongside us.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Through active child-initiated learning and practical tasks we will encourage the children to become independent and confident learners who are self - motivated.



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Communication and Language

Our daily sessions of phonics and reading will continue to be a good basis for other cross-curricular work. The children will develop their reading and writing skills even further this term. They will listen to, and read, a variety of stories in whole class, group and individual reading sessions; including learning that we can find information from non-fiction books about different animals and plants.

Again, the children will be encouraged to write for many different purposes, which will include writing a seed diary, facts about 'mini-beasts', picture prompts linked to our weekly text and recording what they have seen, made or experienced across all areas of their learning..

Foundation Stage Newsletter

Summer 2025

Bugs, Bees & Butterflies

Mathematical Development



This term the children will continue to work on recognising and writing numbers to 20 and beyond. With the use of Numicon, the children will be making and recognising numbers to 100 and learning the value of each digit in a 2-digit number. They will continue to practise counting in steps of 2 from 2 to 20 and in steps of 10 from 10 to 100.

The children will have the opportunity to sort many different small world creatures and talk about their criteria for sorting such as 'lives under the sea' and 'lives on the land' or 'has 4 legs' and 'does not have 4 legs.' The importance of pattern in Mathematics cannot be overestimated; understanding number and number relationships is vital to the development of calculation strategies.

Expressive Arts and Design

In this area of learning the children will be expressing themselves in drama and role play through stories such as 'The Bad-tempered Ladybird' and 'Snail Trail'. Creative development is present in all areas of the EYFS curriculum. The children have access to activities every day which encourage, promote and celebrate creativity. The children have access to musical instruments, role-play areas, puppets and a creative area where they can make a variety of objects. The adult-led creative activities are connected to each weekly theme where we encourage the children to talk about what they are doing and develop their use of the new vocabulary introduced.

PARENTS HELPING: We welcome parents to come and help with reading, Forest School, gardening, village walks, trips, etc - please contact the office to book a DBS check. Then let me know when you can come in.

Important Dates

Start of Term 22nd April 2025

5th May - Bank Holiday

Half-Term 26th May - 30th May

Class assembly - 5th June

Saturday 14th June - Summer Fayre and Colour Run

Monday 16th June - Sports Day (PM)

Tues 1st & Thurs 3rd July - Parents' Evenings

Wednesday 9th July - New classes afternoon

Tuesday 22nd July - Last day of term

Understanding the World

We will be growing flowers and vegetables and looking at the lifecycles of butterflies and frogs. We have ordered some caterpillars and are looking forward to watching them grow and change. This year we will be setting up a wormery as many children in the class seem fascinated with these amazing creatures. The children will be encouraged to talk about what they see happening and to show care towards living things by looking after them. We are lucky to have a pond on site which we will be using. Everyone enjoys pond dipping!

Reading: Thank you for your continued support with reading at home with your children. Please find time to share a book with your child at least 3 times a week. When your child reads at home, you can record this in their Reading Diary. We will read with your child at least once a week and record this in their diary, so please ensure it is brought into school each day. We will 'check and change' books when we see that three reads have been recorded in the diary to ensure that your child is gaining fluency and confidence when reading. Demonstration is the best way to teach underlying concepts about reading and writing. Read posters, letters, magazines. Try to take advantage of every opportunity to demonstrate how and why adults read. Share writing the shopping list, thank you letters and invitations.

Forest School

Please wear OLD clothes, arms and legs must be fully covered. Waterproofs, welly boots. Layers for warmth, a sunhat as the weather improves. The children will be outside for most of the day.

First Session: Wednesday 25th April

A chance to learn outside, develop their social skills, learn to mark-make and develop their fine and gross motor skills as well as learning about the world around them.

General Reminders - If someone else is collecting your child, then please let the Office know.

We are a NUT-FREE school



Book Bags - Please bring these in everyday, Reading Logs will be checked daily and we want to work with your child as much as possible,

Water Bottle - Please bring in daily and ensure it is clearly named.

Always ensure your child has a named waterproof coat - we will be outside every day no matter what the weather.

THINK WEATHER! hats, gloves, sunhats, sunscreen?

Please make sure everything is NAMED. Uniform - Name, Name Name.

Get in touch -

Communication is important to us - please do email if you have a worry. We will be sharing pictures and comments to show what your child has been up to!

